


Department of Labor & Economic Growth Bureau of Fire Services Policies And Procedures		NUMBER:  <b>4-20</b>
Subject: Oxygen cylinders		
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Approved By: 		Date: January 31, 2007

**PURPOSE:**

To provide guidelines on the use and storage of oxygen cylinders in health care occupancies.

**REASON:**

NFPA 99, *Standard for Health Care Facilities*, 1996 edition, has been adopted via the rule promulgation process as a referenced standard for the operation of health care facilities in Michigan. This standard states that administrative authorities shall provide regulations to ensure safe practices in handling oxygen and other gases in cylinders. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) currently reference newer editions of NFPA 99, which are less restrictive than the 1996 edition. However, for purposes of Michigan licensure, licensed health care occupancies shall meet the more restrictive requirements of the promulgated 1996 edition of NFPA 99.

**POLICY:**

It is the policy of the Bureau of Fire Services to allow a facility to maintain a convenient working supply of oxygen to meet the daily needs of the unit without running out, especially at night or at critical times.

- In a patient sleeping room, one active cylinder and one full cylinder in reserve for each patient who requires oxygen will be permitted.
- At a nurse's station, one full cylinder as emergency standby will be permitted.

Cylinder(s) shall either be attached to a cylinder stand or therapy apparatus of a size to render the entire assembly stable, or the cylinder(s) shall be chained or supported in a proper cylinder stand or cart. The cylinder(s) shall NOT be chained to portable or movable apparatus such as beds or oxygen tents. Oxygen cylinders found to be in excess of this policy in a patient sleeping room or at a nurse's station shall be relocated to a room or space that is constructed in accordance with the storage requirements of NFPA 99, 1996 edition.

NOTE: Cylinders used in these facilities must be clearly marked regarding their status as full, in use, empty, etc. Cylinders, which are unmarked, will be considered empty and will not be counted against those as indicated above.